

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the present application. Claims 1-22 are pending in this application.

35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 13-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is based on the phrase "common error". Applicant has amended claim 13 to remove the phrase "common error". Applicant submits that amended claim 13 satisfies 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 13-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,208,814 to Ulrich et al. (hereinafter "Ulrich"). Applicant respectfully submits that claims 13-15 are not anticipated by Ulrich.

The Ulrich reference discloses:

An apparatus provides for operating an electronic reprographic system containing a method for recovering from crashes in an electronic reprographic system in which multiple jobs are active concurrently. The system provides for the monitoring of jobs active in the system, and of the number of times a specific job is active and the system crashes. By comparing the number of times a crash occurs when a specific job is active with a predetermined threshold number the operator can evaluate whether the system may be corrupted by a specific job or by the concurrency of jobs. The method further provides the operator with instructions to activate the jobs one at a time to determine which job is corrupt and permits the operator to delete a corrupt job. Ulrich Abstract.

Although Ulrich discloses counting the number of times a crash occurs, Ulrich fails to disclose the elements of claim 13. In particular, the Ulrich reference fails to disclose the steps of "adding X points to a printer error counter" and "adding Y points to the printer error counter if the same printer error occurred within a predetermined time period", as recited in claim 13. The Office Action attempts to eliminate the step of "adding Y points to the printer error counter..." by setting $Y=0$. However, even if Y is zero, claim 13 performs the step of adding Y (zero) to the printer error counter if the same printer error occurred within a predetermined time period. The fact that Y is zero does not cause the step to be skipped. Although the resulting value of the counter may be the same, the Ulrich reference does not disclose the two separate steps of "adding X points to a printer error counter" and "adding Y points to the printer error counter if the same printer error occurred within a predetermined time period", as recited in claim 13.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 13 is allowable over Ulrich. Given that claims 14-15 depend from claim 13, Applicant respectfully submits that those claims are likewise allowable over Ulrich for at least the reasons discussed above.

35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-12 and 18-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ulrich in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,202,158 to Urano et al. (hereinafter "Urano"). Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-12 and 18-22 are patentable over Ulrich in view of Urano.

The Urano reference discloses:

A detection method of an illegal access to a computer system includes a step a) of collating user identification information inputted from an input unit in one or more log-in operations with user authentication information registered in the computer system, a step b) of detecting the number of times that the identification information is not coincident with the authentication information in a series of log-in operations within a predetermined term, a step c) of obtaining final log-in information indicating whether the identification information is coincident with the authentication information or not in a final log-in operation, and a step d) of comparing the number of times in respect to the incoincidence and the final log-in information with a predetermined judgment standard to thereby detect the presence of the illegal access. Urano Abstract.

Thus, the Urano reference focuses on detecting illegal attempts to access a computer system. Urano does not discuss printer operations, does not discuss handling of errors by a printer and does not discuss rebooting a printer based on a combination of one or more printer errors. Applicant respectfully submits that Urano is unrelated to the tasks at issue in the present application. Accordingly, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would not have considered Urano because the Urano reference has no relationship to the present application. Further, the detection of illegal access to a computer system (Urano) provides no motivation to combine such teaching with a system that correlates active jobs with system crashes (Ulrich).

The Office Action alleges that the security logging disclosed in Urano is similar to the error logging disclosed in Ulrich because both logging systems "generate large amounts of data and alerts." Office Action, Page 5. "Thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to incorporate the time periods of Urano into the printer error logging and repair system of Ulrich, thus creating a more robust fault tolerant system." Office

Action, Page 5. Applicant respectfully submits that the Ulrich reference should not be characterized as a “printer error logging and repair system”. Such characterization is made only as an attempt to create a link (i.e., logging) between the Ulrich reference and the Urano reference. As discussed above, there is no such link between Ulrich and Urano. A search of the Ulrich reference fails to locate the word “logging” and locates only one instance of the word “log”, used as follows in the background section of Ulrich:

An important item of information is the number of times a fault occurs in the system. One method of acquiring and supplying this information to the operator is by recording the faults in a log. By doing so, a threshold number of faults can be established and used to determine the need for further diagnostic action on the system. Col. 1, lines 55-61.

The above text from the background section of Ulrich does not characterize Ulrich as a “printer error logging” system. Further, Ulrich contains no other reference to “logging” or “log”. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the Ulrich reference is not properly characterized as a “printer error logging and repair system” and is not related to Urano in the manner suggested in the Office Action. As such, there is no motivation to combine Ulrich and Urano as suggested in the Office Action.

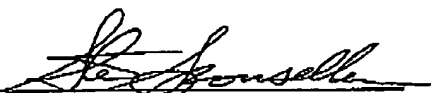
Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the §103 rejections be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Claims 1-22 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and issuance of the subject application.

Respectfully Submitted,

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